

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH

As the dawn chorus greets the morning, may we rejoice and give thanks for life and all your wonderful works;

As the hawthorn and cow parsley lace our hedgerows with their blossom, may our witness in word and deed bejewel your world with love;

As nature gives birth and regrows afresh, may your grace renew and invigorate your people;

As your Spirit moves in creation, in Whitsun wind and in gentle spring breeze, may it move and sustain all we think, do and say.

NEWS FROM THE PARISHES

ASHBOCKING

The Ashbocking Easter day service was well-attended and included a number of children. We experienced the story of the empty tomb with a play performed by members of the congregation and the children were given the Easter message with chocolate. They also had fun hunting for Easter eggs in the churchyard after the service.

Last month I reported that Jan and Jon Bates are opening their home for a Bible study/Christian discussion group, the first being on May 13th at 4 The Cottages, Ashley Grange in the morning. Please note the amended telephone number, should you wish to attend or have any questions. Home no. 890605 mob. 07423052901. All welcome. Parking is at Hawthorns, situated next door to no 4 at the end of Ashley Grange.

The next coffee-morning is on Friday 1st May at Otley Hall at 10.30. All welcome. Catherine will do a very short house-tour if anyone would like it. Please contact me if you would like to attend but do not have transport and I will do my best to arrange a lift for you.

Christian Aid week is coming up, 10th -16th May, when an envelope will be dropped through your door asking for donations. The money collected goes to help fight poverty across the world. The envelopes will be collected by volunteers later in the week. Thank you for your support. The church service on Sunday 10th May will be about Christian Aid's work.

John Finch 1935 – 2015

It is with sadness that we report the death of John Finch, from Feoffee Farm, Ashbocking, on 31st March. The funeral was at Ipswich crematorium on 13th April.

John was born in Colchester on 25th May 1935 and was a proud Essex man. He grew up on a smallholding in West Bergholt. He moved to Ipswich in May 1947 and went to school at Tower Ramparts where he developed his talent for using his hands, becoming a skilled carpenter. He made furniture and a tool-box that he used throughout his life. He loved finding out how things worked and so grew a passion for cars, which he developed as an apprentice motor mechanic at Goslings Garage and the Ipswich School of Technology, not only fixing cars but occasionally crashing them as well.

John had also enjoyed cycling in his youth both touring and racing around the Ipswich velodrome. It was touring on a bike that gave John a taste for travel which he enjoyed later in his life too, although he was not one for learning languages. He also sailed at Pin Mill on various craft. He frequented the Maybush at Waldringfield and Wednesday nights were spent with his friend Eric trying and failing to beat the locals at darts.

In 1956 John joined Finch & Harrington which his father started with Fred Harrington back in the 1930's. For John, now in the family business, a new era had begun. He moved with his young family into Graham Avenue to a house he had built. The business did well and the family grew. They enjoyed annual trips to the south of

France and filmed the excursions on a 9mm cine camera, which was the gadget of the time.

The family moved to Feoffee Farm, Ashbocking in 1977 after John's father had retired and the family business sold. John now became an accomplished and respected huntsman with the Easton Harriers. He took up riding initially at Newton Hall, Swiland to keep fit, but was drawn towards hunting, which stayed with him throughout his life. He was awarded his Hunt Buttons at a private dinner in 1982 by the Master of the Hunt, Mr Tony Harvey. This was one of John's greatest achievements. He was now allowed to wear his 'green tails' at hunt functions.

With the boys grown up, farming was replaced by a thriving glass-engraving business and John embarked on a new chapter with his wife Noreen. They married in 1993 and honeymooned in Southern Ireland. They soon got the travel bug and managed to visit 32 different countries together. Despite travelling to exotic places like Zimbabwe, Iceland, Singapore and America, their favourite remained the south of France.

John's other passion was genealogy which he shared with Noreen. They managed to trace the Finch lineage back to 1690 by research and 'graveyard hopping' across the length and breadth of the country. John also enjoyed the internet, Amazon in particular! He also became expert in Photoshop and had a number of his photographs published in magazines.

John was a very self-reliant and resilient man, who always expected the best from people he met. He instilled this in his boys - 'treat others as you would expect to be treated yourself.'

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him and our thoughts are with Noreen and the family at this difficult time.

Linda Pollard

CLOPTON

There was a wonderful sunrise for our Sunrise Service on Easter Day. It was lovely to stand in the churchyard and join the dawn chorus as we acclaimed the risen Christ together. Bacon rolls and coffee followed and then Communion led by Jane. Thank you to those who made the church look so beautiful and to the cooks!

Our next craft and chat morning is on Wednesday 6th May from 10am until 1pm in the village hall. Everyone is very welcome. The May coffee-morning is on Wednesday 20th from 10am until noon and will be hosted by Anne Ayling.

Church cleaning Audrey and Chris Barker

Church flowers Doris Main

Geoffrey Francis Bull 1924-2015

Geoffrey moved with his family from Valley Farm, Offton to Clopton in 1928 when he was four years old. He attended Clopton and then Grundisburgh schools, leaving when he was fourteen. He spent the next four years working on the family farm and when he was eighteen he registered for National Service. He chose the Royal Navy and trained at various places including HMS Ganges at Shotley.

During his service with the Royal Navy he served on a frigate which was an escort ship giving protection to convoys carrying troops. He travelled to many places including Aden, Malta, Bombay, Singapore, and Cairo. He had numerous tales to tell of his wartime exploits and these can be seen on the Clopton Church website.

After 'demob' Geoffrey returned to Green Farm and continued to farm until a few years ago when ill health prevented him from working. His hobby was stocks and shares and he was always able to quote the latest ups and downs of the Stock Market.

He enjoyed travelling with his friend Richard Brooke to many RN reunions and travelled to the D Day celebrations in Normandy.

Doris Main

OTLEY

There was a large congregation at church on Easter morning, including the Scouts and Cubs, who presented their banners but who were also supporting one of their main helpers, Jayne Jackson, who was baptised during the service. Jayne and her husband Kev were married here two years ago and now run the Cubs together. It was a lovely occasion. Thank you to the ladies who had decorated the church beautifully with spring flowers, and to the younger children who had made an Easter garden at Messy Church. Also at Easter, Jasper Beaumont was confirmed at the cathedral, a big occasion for him.

At the end of March there was an impressive service of thanksgiving for the life of Aubrey James, planned by Aubrey himself. The Royal Marines Association sent a uniformed guard of honour with four standard bearers, and a bugler sounded Last Post and Reveille when Aubrey's ashes were interred in the churchyard. The church was full with family and friends, ex Royal Marines, and colleagues from the Forestry Commission.

Seventy people took part in the quiz evening. The questions this year were compiled by Graham Hudson, and included rounds copying items from the television competitions Pointless, Only Connect, and The Chase, which was the most testing of all! The result was a dead heat so there had to be a tiebreak (question - how many calories in a slice of carrot cake from M & S? answer - far more than either team guessed, so beware!) and the winners were the family team of the Barkers, Chittocks and Sweets, a fraction ahead of the Beaumonts, Jane Hall and friends. Well done, everybody - it was good fun, and a delicious supper of jacket potatoes, chilli and other fillings was provided by Ruth Farnhill, Penny Clark and Pauline Crowley, with delicious cakes to

follow. Ruth and Ruthie Bullock were question-masters and James Hall kept the score.

At the Gardening Club AGM David Papworth resigned as chairman and Lynne Howland resigned from the committee, having previously been secretary. Both of them were instrumental in starting the club following a request in the parish plan seven years ago, and it is now thriving with 35 members and a programme of excellent speakers. Alan Trevelyan has taken over as chairman and he thanked David, supported by Tess, and Lynne, and presented David with an antiquarian gardening book and garden vouchers, and the ladies with planted baskets of bulbs. Matthew Tanton-Brown was also elected honorary life president of the club. He had compiled an entertaining horticultural quiz for the meeting and will be hosting the evening visit to The Walled Garden at Benhall on 18th May. On 24th June there is a coach-trip to Capel Manor Gardens in Middlesex.

A group of visiting bellringers recently rang a full peal of 7 Minor (for those in the know!) in 2 hours 47 minutes, a wonderful sound. This group have known each other for fifty years, originally at college, and had assembled from all over the country - Windermere, Whitehaven, Watford - staying at Elmswell, and ringing every morning and afternoon for five days. From Otley they were going on to Ashbocking.

The next monthly coffee-morning will be on Thursday 28th May at Field View, Helmingham Road, the home of Peter and Gerry Senior who will be pleased to welcome you.

We are sorry to report that Audrey Farley has died. She was such an active person, who supported many church and social events, hosted coffee mornings, attended Gardening Club, helped out at events at Otley Hall, and was a very good cook, We send our sympathy to her family.

Rose Rogerson

Village diary:

2 nd May	Casino Night - Otley School PTA
7 th May	General Election
7 th May	Friendship Club meeting in the Chapel 2.30 pm
14 th May	Afternoon performance – Students from Easton and Otley College 1.30-3.30pm. More details from Sandra Taylor 01473 78415
18 th May	Annual Parish Meeting 7.00 pm
21 st May	Friendship Club - talk by Age UK 2.30 pm

Another date for your diaries is for Sunday 14th June 6.30pm. John Finlinson who is a talented singer/songwriter will be performing at Otley Village Hall and entrance is free. More details will follow in next month's magazine.

Church Flowers Betty David/Vanessa Ling

Church cleaning: Philip and Betty David

Sidepersons' Rota:

3 rd May	11.00am Family Service	Ruth Farnhill
17 th May	9.30am Holy Communion	Nigel Crowley
24 th May	6.30pm Evensong	Peter Rogerson

Aubrey James 1924-2014

Aubrey was born in the Forest of Dean. He was educated at what is now the Forest of Dean Grammar School and on leaving he joined the Forestry Commission as a forestry student. His training was interrupted by the war. In 1943 he enlisted in the Royal Marines and experienced active service with the Commandos in Europe where he was involved in the beach-head landing on the Scheldt estuary with the purpose of freeing Antwerp from enemy occupation. Later he was shipped to the Far East and the war ended just as the Commandos were preparing for yet another landing on the islands around Indonesia. He was proud of his service and regularly attended reunions in Flushing (Vlissingen) with his ex-Commando comrades.

On demobilisation he rejoined the Forestry Commission to complete his training and enter forestry management where what he looked back on as his best years were spent with his family in the New Forest. He was later appointed the regional training officer for Wales and the South of England. In 1976 Aubrey arrived in Suffolk to take the post of Chief Forester at Tangham. He and his wife Dorothea decided to live in Otley where he soon became involved in village affairs. He was persuaded to become firstly treasurer and later secretary of Otley Community Council and over a number of years brought to these tasks a clear-sightedness and good understanding of financial and village affairs to the advantage of the community.

He handed the job on to a successor with the intention of taking a break from village affairs. This was not to be the case and he accepted the post of Clerk to Otley Parish Council. His management skills and rapport with government agencies suited him admirably for the complexities of dealing with the ever-increasing demands made by local government. In all Aubrey's administrations he was ably assisted by Dorothea, who sadly died in 1990.

Aubrey retired from the Forestry Commission in 1986, but as a hands-on forester he was never happier than when working in woodlands. He was therefore happy to accept an invitation from Otley College to lecture part-time and assist in setting up courses in arboriculture. He tried to convince me that his contribution was minimal and that he only worked within the constraints of the syllabus, but I believe that anything that fell under his jurisdiction improved and prospered.

He had many interests. He was an accomplished botanist and naturalist; he had an extensive collection of the very early cigarette cards; he was a knowledgeable numismatist; he had a keen appreciation of many branches of antiques and collected treen – small, hand-turned, functional wooden items. His greatest love was for his family.

Aubrey was an active, gifted and modest man who never sought the limelight, preferring just to get on with the job. With abundant insight and perspicacity and a strong sense of service to others, he was a Christian gentleman and a good friend. I shall miss him.

John E Jay

1st Otley Scout Group

This year the Scout Group will be celebrating their 40 year anniversary. To start the celebrations, there will be a section for “Thanks” at the June 7th parade service at Otley Church. We would love as many past and present members of the Group to join us for the morning (the service starts at 11.00am), as this will also be the last parade service for our wonderful Group Scout Leader, Brian Childs, who retires from the role in September. Please pass these details onto anyone you think may wish to attend.

We are planning a “Where are they now? Memories” board – so if anyone has any details/photos/messages they’d like included on the board please send them to me (details below) or Terry Dye nigelandrew@btinternet.com

Other plans..... Group Camp this year will be at the Scout Hut, September 18th – 20th. There will be activities on the playing field and a camp fire & BBQ on the Saturday evening. Any past members of the Group wishing to say “Goodbye” to Brian will be very welcome on the Saturday. Please spread the word....we’d love to see as many people as possible.

Thank you for all your support for the Group.

Jayne Vaughan (Group Secretary) abendhouse@btinternet.com

"Otley Village Show returns...!"

The Otley Village Show will return on Saturday 12th September. Please make a note in your diaries and come along to support this popular event. Schedules and entry forms will shortly be available from Otley Village Stores or you can download copies

from: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/407019442798994/>. Any queries, please contact Helen Quilliam on 890594.

"Blithe Spirit"

The Otley Players certainly delivered the treat we were looking forward to in their stylish production of Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit". The action takes place in the 1930s home of Charles and Ruth Condomine, and follows the disruptions that occur after a séance. A local medium unwittingly conjures up the spirit of Charles's first wife, Elvira, who then takes up residence, followed, after Ruth's death, by the latter's ghost too. There are some hilarious moments and misunderstandings and, finally, when we think the medium has removed the ghosts and Charles is finally left alone, pictures drop from the wall, ornaments fall in the fireplace and doors swing to and fro - he will never be free of his two dead wives!

The main characters had a lot of lines to learn in Coward's witty and wordy script. Nathan Cant and Vanessa Ling were very polished as Charles and Ruth, Sue Courteney was colourful and extravagant as the eccentric Madame Arcati, and Hayley Gavin was confident as the grey and ghostly Elvira. James Hall and Mary Hunt were excellent as Dr. and Mrs. Bradman, both true to their roles, and Joan Parish was great in the truly comic character of the maid. The set, designed and built by TOPS members, was as professional as ever, the costumes lovely and of their time, and high-quality lighting and sound were provided by Mike Bullock. All of this was achieved under the skillful direction of John Parish, who chose the play, knew what he wanted from it, and obtained a high standard from his cast.

We appreciate the very hard work that goes in to a production like this. Congratulations to everybody involved for giving us a splendid and entertaining evening. TOPS are always ready to welcome new members.

Rose Rogerson

Otley Bowls Club

Spring has sprung, so that means it's bowls season. For those that don't know, Otley has a small but thriving bowls club with members from teenage to octogenarian. We compete in three local leagues, and a few of our members play at county level. For more information, find our web site and Facebook page on google under "Otley Bowls Club", or contact Phil Quilliam on 890594.

Otley Parish Council

With local elections taking place on 7th May our annual parish meeting will be held slightly later this year, at the village hall on Monday 18th May at 7.00pm. Your recently elected councilors would be delighted to meet with you to highlight the past year's achievements and discuss ongoing community issues. Councils have many powers and functions which can affect the quality of life of our community. We can influence other bodies and other tiers of local government, particularly through planning recommendations and by raising matters of local concern. If you would like to know how we tackled planning issues, highways issues, community projects and other points of interest affecting our village please come along.

The council is looking for a clerk/financial officer to work approximately 3 hours a week. Salary will be in accordance with national salary scales, dependent on experience and qualification (starting rate - £8.61 per hour). You must be able to attend 6 scheduled (evening) council meetings a year plus the annual meeting and be prepared to attend other meetings or events as required. The council will arrange and pay for training as appropriate. The successful applicant will be responsible for the administration of the parish council and must have access to and be comfortable using email. Applications are required in writing or by email by 30th April 2015 and interviews will be held soon afterwards. It is hoped to have someone in the post by 22nd May. Contact Anthony Ling, chairman, on 890787 or email antling@onetel.net or Vanessa Osborne, clerk, on 892180 or otleyparishclerk@btinternet.com for more information.

Otley Under Fives

Research has confirmed what practitioners and parents have long since known - transitions are stressful for children and young people, just as they are for adults, and the resulting stress can have far-reaching effects on children's emotional wellbeing and academic achievements. For some children, times of transition and change can be particularly difficult and reducing this by even a small amount can make a big difference. With commitment and support from the teachers and staff of both Otley Primary School and the Under Fives, we aim to manage this change and our five older children will shortly begin sessions with Mrs Tomany and the reception class to help build positive and productive relationships. We at Under Fives have our own changes ahead as we open again on a Tuesday, enabling us to offer flexible pre-school sessions each day from Monday to Friday 9am-3pm. We are also delighted to welcome Jack, Isobel and Edessa to Under Fives and our highly trained staff will be making sure that their settling-in programme facilitates the newcomers with their own transition and progression of learning experiences. Call Michelle on 07789 468853 for further information on sessions available.

Otley Primary School

We are seeking to strengthen the governing body of Otley & Witnesham Federated Primary schools by appointing an additional governor specifically from the Otley village community.

If you would like to make a real difference to the education of our local children and contribute to the important work of a governing body that was rated "good" by Ofsted at its last inspection, then we would like to hear from you. You do not need any educational experience and indeed skills from other disciplines would be a distinct advantage. What we do ask for is enthusiasm and a willingness to contribute. The role of a governor is to hold the school to account and act as its "critical friend."

The full governing body meets three times a year but there are plenty of other opportunities to become involved in the life of the school by, for example, agreeing to an individual responsibility or joining one of the sub committees. Governors are also encouraged to visit the school on regular occasions and to make a positive contribution to the life and running of the school. Education and how it is delivered are changing rapidly and governing bodies have in the last few years been given far more independence and freedoms than previously.

You do not need to be a parent of a child at school to be a governor and if this role interests you then please contact me on 892008 or ian.liddell2@btinternet.com for further information and a chat.

Ian Liddell (Chair of governors)

SWILLAND

Our Easter Day service was well-attended. It was lovely to have lots of Spring flowers after no flowers during Lent.

Our next event is the Illuminati Concert on Sunday 12th July in the afternoon. Tea will be served in the interval. Please put this date in your diaries.

Ann Kent

Flower rota

3rd - 10th May

Jackie Williams

17th - 24th May

Margo Barker

31st May - 7th June

Gill Reidy

Rainfall - March

“If March come in like a lion, it will go out like a lamb”. This year it was the other way round although it was a bit breezy at the start of the month and not all that warm. March was very dry with only .65 inches of rain with continuing cold nights. In the days when we still had horses a dry March was a necessity, as more land was drilled in the spring, especially barley and oats, hence the saying that a speck

of dust in March was worth a king's ransom. A wet March often meant that most of the drilling took place in April after the cuckoo had arrived and this was called cuckoo barley as seed drilled later gave a lower yield.

Russell Ling

Woodbridge Deanery Synod 19 March 2015

Anne Spalding, Bishop's Advisor for Spirituality, provided a thoughtful introduction to Growing in Depth, which is one element of Growing in God, the Diocesan Vision for Growth. Reflection on a Bible reading provided lively conversations.

Notable Dates

Monday 11 May 2015: Archdeacon's visitation – 7.30pm in Orford

Friday 15 May 2015: Closing date for nominations to Diocesan Synod

Synod Meetings

Wednesday 17 June - Otley Village Hall

Tuesday 17 November - St Felix Church, Rendlesham

Further themes from Growing in God will be explored - Growing in Number, Growing in Influence, Growing Younger.

All Saints' Church, Brandeston

Everyone is invited to our Celebration of Music and Flowers on the weekend of 30th and 31st May.

The church and plant stall will be open from 11.00am on both days.

From 2 to 5 pm there will be music, flowers and cream teas to enjoy. Saturday at 7.30pm.

Concert of light classics including Suffolk Singers and professional musicians. Tickets £10 including light refreshments.

Please book in advance. Ring 01728 685807.

Sunday - The weekend will end with Songs of Praise in the church at 5pm

Smile Lines

When children meet the Bible, the result can be unpredictable. As in these answers to a school chaplain's efforts to teach RE....

The main purpose of the prophets was to set up the lights for when Jesus came on the stage.

The Kingdom of God is no ordinary place like the bathroom at home.

Jesus said: If you want to divorce your wife leave a note for her on the table.

Jesus healed a man with a weathered hand.

Some of the seed from the sower was carried off by Satan.

The last verses of Mark's gospel were written later by a unanimous person.

Jesus first proclaimed the gospel to the Jews: He told them to make love to each other.

An altar is a stall for candles.

An example of Holy Orders are the Ten Commandments.

An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

Political systems

What is the difference between Capitalism and Socialism?

Capitalism is the exploitation of man by man. Socialism is the exact opposite.

Fire

There was a fire at the main Inland Revenue office in London, but it was put out before any serious good was done.

Mark

A Dean of York Minster was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox-terrier 'Mark'. He explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale!"



PENTECOST

24th May

Do you know what happened on the first Pentecost? On that day what really amazed all the people was that everyone there heard the message of the Good News in their own language. You can read about this in Acts, chapter 2.

How many languages can you speak? We all speak English but most of us know at least a few words in more than one language. I bet you know some French, even if it is only 'bonjour' or 'merci', perhaps you know some Urdu, Spanish or Polish too.

There are so many languages in the world we couldn't hope to learn more than a few of them – but Jesus knows our language... He can speak everyone else's language too. His gospel can be translated into every possible dialect and tongue because, whatever words are used, that gospel is the same. It is for all people, everywhere. Jesus speaks to everyone in His own language.

P - QUIZ

All the answers in this Bible quiz begin with the letter P - can you find them all?

1. Paul wrote to the people of this town.
2. The Roman Governor who washed his hands.
3. Where the last book in the Bible was written.
4. Short stories Jesus told.
5. Goliath was one.
6. What Amos and Hosea were.
7. To begin with he was called Saul.
8. The Egyptian ruler who argued with Moses.

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Where would you look for a lost vicar?

The Bureau of Missing Parsons.

What is wet, round, and taste of peppermint?

Water Polo.

What did the policeman say to the naughty frog?

Hop it.



⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘⌘

ANSWERS: 1.Philippi 2.Pontius Pilate
3.Patmos 4.parables 5.Philistine
6.prophets 7.Paul 8. Pharaoh

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Wednesday	9am – 7pm
Friday	9am – 4pm
Saturday	9am – 12 Noon

Beauty opening times

Tuesday	9am – 5pm
Thursday	9am – 5pm
Friday	9am – 5pm
Saturday	9am – 12 Noon

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Find us at Unit 21 Lewis Farm, Pettaugh Road, Stonham Aspal, Stowmarket

We are just up the road from Stonham Barns on the A1120 or put **IP14 6AU** in your SAT NAV.



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